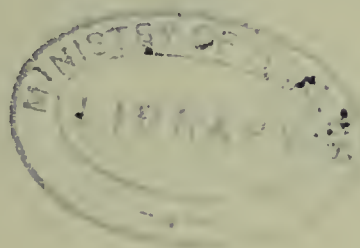


SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1953.



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector -

C. E. BEAN, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st May 1954.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 & 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district during the year has remained satisfactory, and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Bean, your Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss.P.Goddard, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant

Bob E Pearson

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 3.

A. Area - 1,650 acres.
Rateable value - £58,798.
Production of a penny rate - £225.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,193

LIVE BIRTHS.

			Comparative figures	
	Male.	Female.	(a) Sherborne U.D.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	45	50	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 13.3	
Legitimate	42	49		
Illegitimate	3	1		
			18.4	15.5

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	-	1	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 0.15	0.2	0.35
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DEATHS.

Total	33	43	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 10.5	10.3	11.4
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Deaths in infants under one year	4	-	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 42.1	42.1	26.8
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Deaths from Maternal Causes	-	Nil.
" " Tuberculosis	-	Nil.
" " Cancer of the lungs	-	2
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	-	8
" " Influenza	-	4
" " Pneumonia	-	4
" " Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
" " All other accidents	-	Nil.
" " Suicide	-	1

Comments.

Four deaths in infants under one year of age occurred compared with one during the preceding year.

It is satisfactory to note that no maternal death has occurred during the past twelve years.

B. Personal Health Services in the District.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, continued to be provided by the County Council. It has not yet been possible to develop fully the County Council's Domestic Home Help Service in the district. Otherwise, the services provided have been adequate and no further comment with regard to them is considered necessary.

The Public Health Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

C.Environmental Health Service.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

C.E.Bean, M.S.I.A.,A.R.San.I.	Chief Sanitary Inspector. Part time.
H.R.C.Strange, M.S.I.A.,M.R.San.I.	Additional Sanitary Inspector. Full time. Resigned 14.11.53.
P.A.Williams, M.S.I.A.,M.R.San.I.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector. from 16.12.53.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector also carries out the duties of Water Engineer and Surveyor.

Clerical Staff - 3 clerks (part time).

2. WATER SUPPLY.

	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Rainfall -	43.52 ins.	34.49 ins.	26.50 ins.

The supply has remained adequate in quantity throughout the year.

The quality from each source has remained satisfactory.

Regular monthly samples from each of the Council's supplies, totalling 148, were submitted for bacteriological examination and a sample from each source was submitted for chemical examination. Daily testing of the supplies for residual chlorine was carried out. The fluorine content of the supplies was shown to be between 0.20 and 0.25 parts per million.

A number of private well supplies are used in the district for industrial purposes. From these supplies regular samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

1,933 houses in the Urban District are provided with a water supply piped into the house. 78 houses obtain their water by means of standpipes.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Consultants were engaged during the year to consider proposals to improve the function of the existing sewage disposal works.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. The Local Authority's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

(b) Salvage. The following amounts of salvage have been collected during the year in conjunction with regular refuse collection:-

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>
Paper	85	17	3
Metal	5	2	2
Rags	1	14	2
Total -	92.	14.	3.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. No provision is required to be made in the district.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

One informal notice was issued and complied with regarding pollution by a private Company from lorries on riverside.

The Somerset River Board, in the course of their duties under the Rivers Board's Act 1948, have exercised close observation on the effect of the sewage effluent from the Council's sewage works on the purity of the River Yeo. Improvement of the existing sewage works has been called for.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

In addition to the Council's direct responsibilities under the Shops Acts 1950, the Council has also had delegated to it the County Council's functions under Section 38(3)(4) and (5).

The following inspections were carried out -

No. of inspections carried out	127
No. of defects found	37
No. of notices served	6
No. of notices complied with	4

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	10	4	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	19	10
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	2	Nil
	64	25	10

	<u>No. of cases in which defects were -</u>		
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>
Sanitary Conveniences -			
Insufficient	1	1	
Unsuitable or defective	5	5	1
Not separate for sexes	1	1	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	
	8	8	1

No. of outworkers = 19

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Informal notices were served with regard to smoke nuisance at two properties which resulted in the abatement of the nuisance.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district, available for use by the public during part of the year. When used by the public the bath is under the control of the local authority, when the water is chlorinated.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination and residual chlorine estimation all proved satisfactory.

10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No. of moveable dwellings licensed during year	8
No. of camping sites licensed in the district	2

No further progress has been made toward the provision of a suitable camping site in the district which is required for the temporary requirements of campers passing through the district or for those persons who, under the present difficult housing conditions, are having to dwell in caravans over long periods of time.

It is hoped that consideration will now be given to set apart an area in the Culverhayes car park extension, with the necessary sanitary facilities, for temporary use by caravans passing through the district.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Five premises were treated for flea and insect infestation during the year.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities now cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

13. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No. of registered premises	Nil
No. of licensed premises	Nil
No. of inspections carried out	Nil

14. PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

No. of licensed premises	2
No. of inspections made	6

15. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

Inspections were carried out of the schools and canteens controlled by the Dorset County Council in the district and detailed reports were submitted to the Principal School Medical Officer. The sanitary accommodation of the temporary school accommodation at the Fairfield, Coldharbour, and the use of trough latrines at the Abbey Schools were mentioned in the report, together with minor defects found elsewhere.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No action was called for under these Acts during the year.

17. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year --

No. of houses inspected during the year	535
No. of inspections made	730

No. of informal notices served	6
No. of informal notices complied with	6
No. of statutory notices served	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	5
Action taken by the local authority in respect to such houses - (a) Demolition Orders made	Nil
(b) Undertakings accepted for -	
(i) Closure	4
(ii) Reconditioning	2
(iii) Other action	10

Overcrowding.

No. of cases of 'statutory overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority	5
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	5
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
Total No. of houses in the district	2,011

Requisitioned Premises etc.

Five houses were held under requisition at the end of the year. Nine houses, on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made, were being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	<u>Temporary Prefab.</u>	<u>Traditional Type.</u>
During 1953	Nil	18
Post-war	40	171

Total No. of families re-housed during 1953 37

By private enterprise 8 new houses were built during the year.

Housing Acts 1949 & 1952 - Improvement Grants.

No application for an Improvement Grant under these Acts were received during the year.

Medical Officer of Health's Recommendations.

During the year 20 recommendations for the granting of additional points on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 30 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

Applications for Council Houses.

At the end of the year there were 262 applicants for Council houses, of which 185 were resident within the district. These figures are the same as those at the end of the preceding year.

Comments.

From the above-mentioned figures it will be seen that, although the number of inspections carried out of houses in the district has materially increased over preceding years, no material action has been taken in respect to defective property. The increase house inspections have been principally those carried out under the Housing Survey commenced during 1953, the results of which it is anticipated will shortly be available for presentation to the Council.

A constant demand for new Council house accommodation remains and I can see no likelihood of this demand decreasing appreciably until the houses no longer fit for human habitation and those barely fit for human habitation and which are still occupied, are adequately dealt with. Action in respect to this type of property will be called for under the Housing and Rents Bill, now before Parliament and in the light of Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 30/54.

18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949 by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulation 1949 4

No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 2

No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 4

No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 4

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	}	33
Accredited		
Pasteurised		413

No. of samples of milk subjected to a guinea pig inoculation test for Tuberculosis 11

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year. Reported representations were made during the year to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with regard to the unsatisfactory bacteriological condition of milk from one producer-retailer in the district. Toward the end of the year, some improvement was apparent in the bacteriological quality of this milk supply.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 53

No. being - restaurant kitchens 6
hotel kitchens 15
food factories 5

No. of premises subject to Section 13 inspected 53

No. being - restaurant kitchens 6
hotel kitchens 15
food factories 5

No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 32

No. of such premises registered in respect to -
(a) Ice-cream 29
(b) Sausages & prepared meats 3

No. of premises inspected during the year 32

No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test 129

Results:-	Grade 1	-	81
	" 2	-	23
	" 3	-	17
	" 4	-	8

Food Inspection.

(a) Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Sherborne. This Slaughterhouse has continued to serve a wide area in the North Dorset district.

<u>Carcases inspected and condemned.</u>				
	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed	2558	556	4326	1002
Number inspected	2558	556	4326	1002
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	21	11	16	30
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	865	5	380	106
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	33.7	2.7	9.1	13.5
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	28	-	-	8
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	571	-	-	70
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	23.4	-	-	7.7

(b) Butchers and other shops.

Quantities condemned - Bacon and Ham 23 lbs.
 Chicken 29 "
 Fish 22 "
 Other foods condemned - Meat 99 tins.
 Fruit 213 "
 Other foods 89 "

19. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out _____ 12
 No. of disinfections carried out _____ 4

20. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings) _____ 187
 Total No. of informal notices served _____ 6
 Total No. of informal notices complied with _____ 6
 Total No. of statutory notices served _____ Nil.
 Total No. of statutory notices complied with _____ Nil.
 Total No. of prosecutions _____ Nil.

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Measles	92
Whooping Cough	18
Scarlet Fever	9
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1
Lobar Pneumonia	4
Influenzal Pneumonia	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	2

As will be seen from these figures, measles was prevalent during the year. 18 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year as compared with 53 during the preceding year. 7 cases of pneumonia were notified during the year compared with 2 in the preceding year.

Tuberculosis.

<u>New Cases.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory..</u>
2	1	-	-

Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis only were notified during 1953 compared with five in 1952 and ten in 1951.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.